

New law permits the governing authority in each of the parishes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court (district) to annually transfer surplus monies in the special fund of each parish to the criminal court fund of the district.

Prior law provided that witness fees shall be paid from costs of court collected in individual cases tried in district or parish courts or in any court to be collected in such cases and shall be collected for each case in which there is a plea of guilty or in which there is a conviction. All of such costs shall be placed in a special fund that shall be maintained and be administered by the governing authority.

New law defines "special fund" as the special fund provided for in prior law, and "surplus monies" as the amount of money which is in each special fund at the end of each calendar year and which is in excess of the total amount paid from each special fund as witness fees for off-duty law enforcement officers in that calendar year.

New law requires the money to be transferred no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

New law authorizes the transferred surplus monies to be used for any purpose for which other monies in the criminal court fund of the district may be used.

New law prohibits any money obligated to be paid to any officer or agency for an off-duty law enforcement court appearance from being considered surplus money.

Effective August 15, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 15:255(M))